



U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
Washington, DC 20515

James L. Oberstar
Chairman

John L. Mica
Ranking Republican Member

December 9, 2010

David Heymsfield, Chief of Staff
Ward W. McCarragher, Chief Counsel

James W. Olson II, Republican Chief of Staff

The Honorable Daniel R. Elliott
Chairman
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20423-0001

Dear Chairman Elliott,

We would like to request your assistance to expedite the Surface Transportation Board's consideration of the sale by CSX Transportation of a 61-mile rail corridor in Central Florida to the Florida Department of Transportation, for the purpose of establishing a commuter rail service on the line. (Florida Department of Transportation Acquisition Exemption, STB docket FD_35110_0, filed April 3, 2009.)

As you know, Amtrak filed a petition on April 30, 2010 to the FDOT Acquisition docket objecting to the proposed sale. At a meeting called by U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood on December 8 that included Florida DOT, Amtrak, Federal Transit Administrator Rogoff, Federal Railroad Administrator Szabo, Rep. Corrine Brown and Rep. Mica, Amtrak President Joe Boardman agreed to immediately withdraw the Railroad's petition objecting to this sale.

It is our understanding that it normally takes the Board about five months to review a railroad sale case. The Board has had the Florida Department of Transportation acquisition case before it for considerably longer than that, and with this final objection from Amtrak withdrawn, we hope that this case will be completed in the very near future.

Thank you in advance for your attention to this very important matter.

Sincerely,

John L. Mica
Republican Leader

Corrine Brown
Chairman Railroad Subcommittee

**Cc: The Honorable Francis P. Mulvey, Vice-Chairman
The Honorable Charles D. Nottingham, Member**

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